

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Responsive to the Office Action, submitted herewith is a replacement page including Fig. 7 now bearing the designation --CONVENTIONAL ART--.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated March 22, 2005. The indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claim 2 is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner has requested that Fig. 7 should be designated by an appropriate legend. Accordingly, submitted herewith is a replacement sheet presenting Fig. 7 with the legend --CONVENTIONAL ART--.

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 11-142841 (hereinafter "JP '841"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites the present invention as comprising a linear light source for generating a light source light, a light guide plate including an end side and a broad side, and a light amount reducing member for reducing the amount of the source light. The light amount reducing member is capable of transmitting light and is made of a material having a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate. The light source light is input to the end side, is propagated through the light guide plate, and is output through the broad side. The light amount reducing member is provided at a joint portion of the end side and the broad side and portions neighboring the joint portion of the light guide plate. This subject matter is not taught by nor in any way suggested by JP '841, as asserted in the Office Action.

The Examiner characterizes element 1 of JP '841 as a light reducing member, and states that light is transmitted through the conductive film 1. It is respectfully submitted that this is not correct.

Element 1 of JP '841 is noted to be a conductive film. However, there is no indication that this film is capable of transmitting light. Further, it is apparent that the film does not transmit light. Indeed, film 1 is behind the reflector 3. Light from source 4 entering plate 5 is reflected by reflector 3, and never reaches conductive film 1.

Accordingly, JP '841 discloses a structure which is different than that which is recited in claim 1, and which functions differently. The subject matter recited in claim 1 is not disclosed by the reference, nor is it suggested in any way by the reference. Claim 1, thus, is patentably distinguished over this reference, and should be allowed.

Claim 2 should be allowed at least for the reasons set forth above, and in view of the Examiner's indication of allowability. Claims 3-4 also depend on claim 1, and should be allowed for at least the reasons set forth above with reference to claim 1.

Claim 5 recites the subject matter of the present invention in a slightly different manner. As set forth above, JP '841 fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 5. Particularly, claim 5 recites that the light amount

reducing member is capable of transmitting light, a feature which is in no way taught by or suggested by JP '841.

New claim 6 and claims dependent thereon are presented to provide complete coverage for the present invention. Claim 6 requires a light amount reducing member capable of transmitting light, which is not disclosed in JP '841. Claim 6 and claims 7-14 dependent thereon are, accordingly, patentably distinguished from the reference relied upon.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Charles Gorenstein (Reg. No. 29,271) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Attachment(s)